ARNewsline(TM) #1257 - Sept. 14, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1257 with a release date of Friday, September 14, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

Terrorists strike at the United States and ham radio responds. This story is first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1257 coming your way right now.

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EMERGENCY COOMMS: HAM RADIO ON ALERT AS TERRORISTS STRIKE THE USA

Amateur radio took to the airwaves to provide assistance in the wake of apparent terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, DC the morning of September 11th. More than 300 died in the four highjacked airliner crashes. The number of dead and injured on the ground is still being assessed. Amateur Radio Newsline's Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, in near the scene and has this report:

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"The city remains completely shut down. No access to any bridges, tunnels or subways. F-16 Aircraft are flying very noticeably in New York airspace -- patrolling. We are literally under military and federal control and the governor has mobilized the National Guard."

Those were the words of one New York area ham familiar with emergency communications. He was describing by e-mail the situation late in the morning of Tuesday September 11th after what are believed to be terrorist launched attacks against the New York City and Washington DC.

Almost immediately after the apparently coordinated assaults, President George W. Bush has announced that the US military was put on high alert here in the United States as well as abroad. At about the same time the Department of Transportation issued a nationwide notice closing off all domestic air traffic.

As we go to air, the FCC has not issued an emergency declaration or other special instructions to the Amateur Radio community but the American Radio Relay League has asked amateurs to stay alert to instructions from local authorities. And the ARRL says that hams ARE ready to assist in any way that they can. This is what we know so far, courtesy of the American Radio Relay League and its webpage:

Here in the Metro New York area some A-R-E-S and RACES organizations opened emergency nets in response to the disaster. According to ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D, an net was set up on the WB2ZSE repeater with Guy Richman, KC2AYG, as its control station. The net handled emergency traffic and provided hams to shadow some New York City officials. Meantime, Kenneth Goetz, N2SQW, reported that a New York State RACES nets were operational on 7.248 MHz and 3.993 MHz. Both nets handled emergency and

government-related traffic.

In the Washington area, Maryland and D-C Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Carr, WA1QAA, told the ARRL that RACES groups were activated in Montgomery County and put in standby in Howard County. Montgomery County Deputy Radio Officer John Creel, WB3GXW, reported that county's RACES team was activated and under full tactical alert. Also, Virginia SEC Tom Gregory, N4NW, asked everyone to monitor the emergency frequencies and to keep a full tank of gas. The Old Dominion Emergency and Virginia Emergency nets were said to have been active.

At times like this, one group the nation always turns to is the Salvation Army. That organization reports its Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network activated its High Frequency net on 14.265 MHz. SATERN also handled health-and-welfare inquiries sent in via its website.

Meantime, the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth suggested that the amateur community remain calm but to be ready. He also recommended that amateurs monitoring any suspicious communications tape it and contact him. Hollingsworth says that he will relay relevant information to the FCC duty team.

The FBI also has set up a toll free number for those with leads or other information on the terrorist attack. It’s at area code 866-483-5137. Leads can also be sent via a special website at www.ifccfbi.gov.

Reporting from the Metro New York area, I’m Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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One question on the minds of many hams is what will happen to the hobby if our government declares war in retaliation for this terrorist act. The American Radio Relay League advises that should a state of war be declared, Amateur Radio would not automatically be shut down. The League says that this requirement was eliminated prior to the Gulf War. (ARRL, ARNewsline(tm), K2SSQ, WB3GXW, FBI release, others)

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RADIO LAW: FLORIDA CB'ER SENTENCED

A Citizens Band operator with an apparent dislike of ham radio operators has received probation for ramming the car of a local radio amateur. This after sentence was handed down August 30th on William Flippo of Jupiter Florida. We have this report:
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Last spring William Flippo, who is known as Rabbit Ears on 11 meters was found guilty on a charge of damaging the vehicle of Ed Petzolt, K1LNC. At the time he was accosted, Petzolt was assisting federal authorities in tracking down malicious interference to ham radio operations that was eventually proven as coming from Flippo.

The judge who pronounced sentence ordered Flippo to rid himself of any two way radio gear that he may now own. Also, the judge told Flippo that he may not own or possess any weapons. And he must reimburse Petzolt for lost wages. Flippo was given thirty days to appeal the judges ruling.

Before being sentenced on the criminal charges, Flippo has already been fined twenty thousand dollars by the federal government. This, after the FCC proved that Flippo was the source of willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications. He was also cited for failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment and unlicensed operation. Flippo has declared bankruptcy and so far has not paid that fine. The government is perusing collection.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Burnett, KT4SB, in Miami.

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If all that were not enough, Flippo is now scheduled to appear in federal court November 5th after his arrest last summer on additional federal charges. There, he faces four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference to a Amateur Radio. Flippo was taken into custody in July 2000 and has been free on $100,000 bond ever since. (ARRL)

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RADIO RULES: FRN BECOMES MANDATORY ON DECEMBER 3

Starting this December 3rd, everyone doing business with the FCC --licensed or not -- must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number -- or FRN. The FCC calls the move a first step toward streamlining fee collection and tracking.

Many amateurs who registered with the Universal Licensing System were assigned an FCC Registration Number by the Commission Registration System or in a one-time cross-registration last year. Any of those have already been notified by mail. (ARRL, FCC)

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BREAK 1

We give you news and a whole lot more. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the Superstition Amateur Radio Club's WB7JTD serving Tempe Arizona.

(5 sec pause here)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DATA AS RF OVER POWER LINES

Internet access via power lines has been reborn in Europe. This as local electric utility companies in Germany launch what vendors tout as the world's first commercial services for high speed Internet access via the power line. And while it holds a potential as competitor to D-S-L and cable modems it also could cause problems for ham radio. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, has the worrisome details.

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Rick P29KFS has filed this 'disturbing' report. Another commercial launch is planned in Sweden later this year, as is a trial for similar services in the Netherlands.

Earlier attempts to offer Internet service through the electrical outlet were frustrated by technical problems. Now, however, the companies behind the commercial rollouts say they have solved problems such as electromagnetic incompatibility, created by transmitters and high-frequency transmission on the power line. Other problems that have been solved include line noise, caused by various devices connected to the power grid, which can disrupt data communication.

Communication on the unshielded power lines does makes them emit radio-frequency signals that can interfere with radio transmissions. Germany is said to be the only country that has regulated emission level.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Graham Kemp, VK4BB.

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What were termed as alarming levels of interference were reported at trials in 1998 in England. According to news reports, some British radio amateurs complained, saying streetlights functioned as enormous antennas. But Nortel and its partner United Utilities in 1999 said that those reports were groundless and that power line communication doesn't conflict with any public users of the radio spectrum. (Q-News)

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ENFORCEMENT: WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ON THE AIR

In enforcement action dealing with language, the FCC rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth has written to Shannon L. Ratigan, N0JAM, of Winnetka California. In his August 22nd letter, Hollingsworth says that the FCC was monitoring transmissions allegedly coming from Rattigan's station between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM Pacific on May 27th. Hollingsworth says that what was heard on 147.435 MHz indicates that Rattigan is seriously misinformed about the Commission's enforcement of the prohibition against obscene or indecent Amateur Radio transmissions.

Hollingsworth tells Rattigan that the Commission's rules prohibit Amateur stations from transmitting obscene or indecent words or language. He continues by saying that utterances of any obscene, indecent or profane language by means of radio communications are prohibited by Title 18, of the United States Code Section 1464. Also, that under the terms of the Communications Act the Commission may revoke any station license for violation of this regulation. Rattigan was given the usual 20 days from the date of Hollingsworth's letter to respond. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: TAKE THAT REPEATER OFF THE AIR - 1

The FCC has told a Utah ham that he must take his uncoordinated repeater off the air and do it now. Not only is the uncoordinated machine interfering with a coordinated system: it also appears to lack any sort of control. Riley

Hollingsworth is the FCC's Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement matters:

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In-Q: We sent a...
Out-Q: ...no control operator.
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According to Hollingsworth, Decho was directed to cease operation of the repeater upon receipt of his letter. He was also requested to respond within 20 days and state what steps have been taken to eliminate interference to the WA6UZS machine. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: TAKE THAT REPEATER OFF THE AIR - 2

And the FCC has told the operator of an uncoordinated repeater in New York State to either fix the problem his system has created or to have had the system off the air by September 3rd.

That warning went to Richard Laing, WB2JPQ, of Eden New York who was first contacted by the FCC back on April 18th. At that time the Commission told Laing that his uncoordinated repeater was causing interference to the coordinated VE3ZAP Canadian system. On May 29th, Laing replied and said that he was changing the repeater frequency and location to comply with coordination. He also told the commission that it would take approximately a month to obtain the new crystals and re-tune the duplexer.

The FCC says that it acknowledged this response and also requested that Laing remove the repeater from a link system. On July 17th Laing reportedly advised the FCC that the change would be accomplished in approximately a week. It wasn't and that lead to the new ultimatum from the FCC. (FCC)

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FM AND REPEATERS: NEW KARC PRES SAYS TO COME TO THE WEBSITE

Speaking about repeaters, Brian Short, KC0BS, is the new Frequency Coordinator and President of the Kansas Amateur Repeater Council. And he is asking anyone who operates a repeater in Kansas to please keep in touch.

Short is asking Kansas repeater keepers to take a moment to go to the organizations website at www.ksrepeater.com to look at the new platform and list of officers. He adds that while you're there, please click on the repeater listings and review your information. If it is not there, incorrect or incomplete, please send an e-mail to kc0bs@arrl.net with the latest update. (KC0BS)

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HAM RADIO BUSINESS: CQ CONTEST MAGAZINE - QRT

If you are a reader of CQ Contest magazine, get ready to say goodbye. This is because the publication which is devoted to the art of amateur radio contesting, will cease publication with its October issue.

CQ Contest made its debut in 1996 and has been published 10 times per year ever since. And while critically acclaimed for its coverage of radiosporting, the magazine has never shown a profit.

As publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, put it, approximately $750,000 has been invested in CQ Contest since its launch with cumulative losses exceeding $150,000. Ross says that as much as he loves contesting, it no longer makes sense from a business standpoint to continue to subsidize CQ Contest magazine.

As to what will happen to outstanding subscriptions? CQ Contest subscribers will begin receiving the company’s flagship CQ Amateur Radio magazine as of the November issue. Those who already subscribe to CQ will have their subscriptions extended based on the value remaining in their CQ Contest subscriptions. And if CQ Contest Editor Bob Cox, K3EST is able to launch his own web-based contesting publication, fulfillment of these subscriptions will again be transferred to that magazine. (CQ, K2MGA)

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HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS: THE ARRL SOUTHWESTRN DIVISION CONVENTION

If you judge a convention a success based on the way people were smiling, than lots of kudos go to the planners of last weekends ARRL Southwestern Division Convention held in Riverside California. Why was everyone so upbeat? A lot probably has to do with the mindset of those who put the show together. That's the Inland Empire Counsel of Amateur Radio Clubs. Gary Boskovich, KD6QLT, is a spokesman for the group:

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In-Q: It takes teamwork...
Out-Q: ...and its still ongoing.
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Among those who attended were ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, retiring Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO and his newly elected replacement -- the current Vice Director Art Goddard, W6XD. ARRL Headquarters sent out several of their finest including Field and Educational Services Department Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, and radio interference solver Ed Hare W1RFI.

All in all it was a fun weekend and Boskovich says that the group plans to do it again in 2005. Next years Southwestern Division Convention takes place in San Diego. (ARNewsline(tm))

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BREAK 2

From sea to shining sea and around the globe on the net. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website – www.arnewsline.org

(5 sec pause here)

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SPECIAL EVENT: ROUTE 66 COMMEMORATIVE IS ON THE AIR

The 75th Anniversary of historic Route 66 is on the air. Brought to you by the Northern Arizona DX Association in cooperation with several leading radio clubs along Route 66 the event kicked off at 0000 U-T-C on September 8th and will continue through 2400 UTC on September the 16th. Take a listen:

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Audio Here
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W6B is being operated by the St. Louis Amateur Radio Club, located in St. Louis, Missouri. Other stations taking part include W6A in Chicago, W6C in Joplin, Missouri, W6D out of Oklahoma City, W6E in the Duke City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, W6F operating from Flagstaff, Arizona, W6G on the air from Williams, Arizona, W6H from Barstow, California and W6I in San Bernardino, California.   Also taking part is W6J out of Lebanon, Missouri operating SSB and CW mobile on the road, For additional information including how to QSL see the April issue of C-Q Magazine or the May issue of QST. (ARNewsline(tm))

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SPACE AND SCIENCE: ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE GOING QRT

NASA is ending a satellite mission that kept tabs on the hole in Earth's ozone layer because the space agency cannot afford to keep paying the $10 million-a-year bill. The Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite will cease scientific operations by September 30 th. This is 10 years after it was deployed by space shuttle Discovery.

The mission was originally designed to last for just three years, though seven of its 10 instruments still work. NASA said the 6 1/2-ton satellite will either be pulled from orbit by the space shuttle or allowed to crash back to Earth sometime between 2016 and 2027.   A replacement mission called AURA is scheduled to be launched in 2003. (Space Daily)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS HAM STATION MODULATION

One of the hardware specialists involved with the ham station on board the International Space Station has explained why the audio from the crew sometimes sounds low level. Posting to the AMSAT SAREX remailer, Lou McFadin, W5DID, says that the deviation is intentionally set such that if the speaker has the microphone just touching his lips it is about 2.5kHz.

Mc Faddin goes on to say that the crew uses a special noise canceling headset so it requires the microphone to be very close. He says that there are times when they forget to close talk the mic with the result being the low deviation and low sounding audio level.

But there is another side to this. McFadin says that he has monitored many terrestrial hams on the air and most have their deviation set very high. Some

as high as 6 to 7 kHz. He says that would be too much for an orbiting spacecraft where the Doppler is already 2 kHz. McFadin adds that this will be even more critical when the 70 centimeter communications system comes on line. That, says W5DID, will happen later this year. (SAREX Remailer)

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GUEST SPEAKERS: I-PHONE CLUB TALKS OFFERED OVER THE INTERNET

One of the leading proponents of Internet based repeater linking says that he has now given talks on the subject to a number of radio clubs in the around the world by means of the Internet itself. Ian Abel, G3ZHI, says it is a good way to have a guest speaker at the club, without the speaker having to travel long distances to attend in person. If you would like Ian to give a talk at your club on this subject, please e-mail him at g3zhi@hotmail.com. (G3ZHI)

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DX

In D-X, Harry Edwards, W6DXO, reports that thanks to the Zimbabwe Amateur Radio Society he will be operating a QRP on Safari from Zimbabwe's Linkwasha Wilderness Safari Camp, and later from the famous Victoria Falls Hotel. He will use the call sign Z2/ W6DXO. Listen for him from Zimbabwe from September 27 through October 5th. An effort will be made to work as many QRP stations as possible. (E-Mail)

And Indiana's White Water Valley Amateur Radio Club will operate special events station this fall on September 22 nd and 23rd from 9 a-m top 5 p-m Eastern time both days in celebration of the annual McMaze Dazes. According to KB9HM, this years McMaze will be an etching cut into a 10 acre corn field showing a famous sports figure. The ham radio commemorative operation will use the call sign K9D, with operation centered on 7 point 265 MHz – plus or minus QRM. QSL as directed on the air (KB9HM)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE PASSING OF A VHF LEGEND - ED CLEGG, W8LOY - SK

And finally this week, the changing of the guard in ham radio continues with word of the passing on Friday September 7th of the legendary Edward T. Clegg, W8LOY. Clegg died of natural causes at age 80 in Lancaster Ohio.

A New Jersey native, Clegg retired to Ohio in the early 1990's following an impressive career devoted to designing, building and marketing radio equipment primarily for ham radio. Along with such legends as the late Faust Gonsett W6VR in California and Ed Ladd of Whippny Labs in New Jersey, Ed Clegg is credited with bringing the world of VHF to the average radio amateur of the 1950's and 60's at prices any ham could afford. In the early '60's the Clegg Zeuss transmitter and companion Interceptor receiver were the Roles Royce of the 6 and 2 meter A-M community. And Ed Clegg even thought of newcommers and young hams when he brought out the under $200 Clegg 99'er transceiver. It was a 6 meter radio that even a teenager could find the dollars to buy. That included a then very young Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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The first time I head a Clegg 99’er on the air was with Ed at the mic. He was W2LOY in those days and his signal while not very strong was very easy to copy because of his impressive audio. We got into a QSO on 50.35 Mc or there abouts and he told me about the new transceiver he was designing and I was listening to the prototype. A few months later I was the proud owner of Clegg 99’er serial number 2 or 3. That QSO was also the start of a lifelong friendship with Ed. His passing is a loss for all of Amateur Radio and -- as you can guess -- a very personal one for me.

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Another friend of Ed Clegg was Ohio resident John Hilliard, W8OF. John tells Amateur Radio Newsline that he visited W8LOY at his home on several occasions and was amazed at the collection of ham radio equipment that Ed Clegg had designed over the years -- including one he put together years ago that never made it to the marketplace:

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Three or four years ago, the last time that I had a chance to sit down for any length of time with Ed in his basement, he pulled out several different prototype radios that he sort of wanted to keep secret -- it seemed like. One of them was a type of a radio that used several different frequencies to transmit and receive on. Actually what it was -- was an early spread spectrum radio. And I do not think that term was even being used back in the 70’s.

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Whether or not Ed Clegg invented spread spectrum before the advent of microprocessor control may not ever be known. What is well accepted in our ever changing world of Amateur Radio is that Ed Clegg, W8LOY, was truly a designer and manufacturer well ahead of his time.

Ed Clegg, W8LOY, is survived by his wife Mavis, his daughter Linda and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at a later date. (W8OF, ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, W8OF and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

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For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm _____

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